

Claims

1. A device for use in performing small-volume chemical reactions, characterized in that said device has a number of openings on one surface, individually connected to the same number of openings on the opposite surface, the grid of said openings corresponding to a first microtitre plate format on one surface and corresponding to a second, denser microtitre plate format on the opposite side.

2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the number of openings is $96/n$, where n is an integer chosen from 2, 4 and 6.

3. Device according to claim 2, characterized in that n is 4.

4. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the first and second microtitre plate formats are the 96-well format and the 384-well format, respectively.

5. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the first and second microtitre plate formats are the 384-well format and the 1536-well format, respectively.

6. Device according to any one of the claims above, characterized in that the device exhibits physical characteristics ensuring its correct assembly and orientation when used, said physical characteristics being chosen among colour codes and patterns; raised and corresponding depressed areas such as velts and grooves or pins and holes.

7. Device according to any one of the claims above, characterized in that it comprises one or more predisposed reagents.

8. A system for use in performing small-volume chemical reactions, characterized in that said system comprises a frame for holding at least two, preferably four devices according to any one of the claims above.

9. A method for performing small-volume chemical reactions, characterized in that a sample or reaction mixture is transferred from a first microtitre plate format to a second, denser microtitre plate format through centrifugation.

10. Method according to claim 9, characterized in that said first microtitre plate format is the 96-well format and said second microtitre plate format is the 384-well format.

11. Method according to claim 9, characterized in that said first microtitre plate format is the 384-well format and said second microtitre plate format is the 1536-well format.